

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, December 16. 1707.

I Have lately been digressing from my Subject, but you may observe that in some of my last I had been panegyricking our happy Circumstances upon the Commons Address to her Majesty, and their unanimous concurring with all the Motions made to them in the QUEEN's Speech; I cannot leave the Subject, without putting our People in Mind, for their Satisfaction under their late Discouragement of one thing, which Her Majesty also hints in Her Gracious Answer to the Commons Address, viz. The Influence their unanimous Proceedings will have on Affairs, and Persons, and Governments abroad.

And if I may be allow'd to comment upon the Royal Text, I'll tell you some of them as they occur to me, perhaps your own Thoughts will assist you in observing more.

First, The King of Portugal, whose Circumstances are, *but what we are all sorry for*, too naked, press'd by a powerful and victorious Enemy, whom, it is no Reflection on his *Portugal Majesty* to say, he is in no Capacity to withstand; yet as he has hitherto shown a Constancy unexpected by his Enemies, and seems to act a second Duke of Savoy, as to his Adherence to the Allies, so he cannot but be encouraged by this Resolution of the House of Commons, *to stand by Her Majesty, and assist Her for the Support of his Portugal Majesty*: I say, he cannot but be encouraged to run greater Risques for this Cause, than in his present Circumstances we could have hoped for, and with a Constancy like that of the Duke of Savoy, wait the Extremity of all things, rather than desert his Allies.

Secondly,

Secondly, The Duke of *Savoy*, who at present perhaps may be uneasy, that the Troops with which he hoped to act offensively shall be removed, and that the Confederates having clear'd *Italy* of the *French*, may leave him half delivered, and put him yet to struggle with the superiour *French*, will now be satisfy'd, that *England*, however chargeable the late Disappointment at *Thoulon* was to them, and however they regret that Misfortune, will yet stand by him, and as if no such thing had happen'd, continue to acknowledge his Bravery and Fidelity by continuing their powerful Assistance to him as before, letting him and all the World know, that 'tis quite another thing to rely on faithful and able Confederates, such as *Britain* and *Holland*, than on a *French* Levity, which being always act'd by the Principles of meer Self, have made it their Maxim to stand by, or abandon their Confederates, just as the present Occasion, and the Article of their own Interest requires, of which the Duke of *Manica* is a late Tragical Instance.

Thirdly, King *Charles* of *Spain*, whom the *Tories* now by Way of Banter call *Le petit Roy de Barcelone*, or the little King of *Barcellona*, they had been but just if they had call'd him *Le petit Roy de Catalogne*; for with all their Victories and Superiority they have hardly been able to set their Foot in that Province yet, a thing chiefly owing to the admirable Conduct of that brave General the Earl of *Gallway*.

And here by the Way, the Author of the History of *Europe* has shown a most unaccountable Piece of Ignorance, as well as Partiality and Want of Manners, when in Requital to the Honourable Scars that great Man carries about him for our Service, he reproaches him, as having let the Loss of his Blood affect his Head; a scandalous and unworthy Treatment of a Man of Merit, who is fighting our Quarrels at the Hazard of his Life, and let any Man but examine, with what Conduct that noble Person has manag'd his few and discourag'd Troops, and put a Stop to the victorious Enemy in such a Manner, that he has not been able to take one Town of Note all this Campaign, and now bids fair to drive them

to a shameful Retreat: Let this be examin'd, it will appear, that General has lost his Blood for an ungrateful People, but has Judgment still enough to make them blush at their Want of a Sense of his Merit, or to make us blush for their Want of Manners.

But to return to King *Charles*; this Vote of the Commons of *Britain* must needs influence his Affairs, and put new Life to his Councils, new Courage into his Men, and new Hopes into his Friends and Well-wishers; they are now assur'd they shall not be abandon'd, the Enterprize shall not be given over, as a Party here, and perhaps there too, has suggested, that powerful Assistance shall be furnish'd, and that in the mean time they have nothing to do, but with Courage and Resolution to struggle with their present Circumstances, and remember the Relief of *Barcelona*, when Rescue and Relief came at the last Moment, and the good Fortune, or rather good Director of the Confederacy, appear'd in the very Article of Distress.

I know, it is enquir'd, where Relief will be found for King *Charles*; but I answer, if the Parliament provides but the Fund, let the Government alone to find Means for his Help, I know they alledge, the *Hessians* and *Saxo-Gothen* Troops are recalled out of *Italy*, and the *Palatine* Troops scruple to march: but Rumours will not disappoint King *Charles*, the *Hessians* are not gone, nor the *Saxons* march'd yet; the *Palatines*, if their Prince says go, must go, and if the Officers refuse, other Officers will accept their Commissions, no Question.

'Tis a good Story of the Duke of *Parma*, when in his Government of *Flanders* a Regiment of *Walloons* refused to march, and he found it was in the Officers; he immediately took away all their Commissions, and made all the Serjeants, Captains and Lieutenants, the Corporals, Ensignes, and made private Men Serjeants, and the Regiment marched immediately; the Officers seeing this, would have comply'd, but it was then too late; the Prince was not a Man to trifle with, he would not do and undo; but as he made the Serjeants Captains, he contriv'd them so, and the other suffer'd for their Folly.

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The Moral of the Story is good in the Case of the Palatine Troops, let but their Sovereign command them to march, and there are Ways and Means to make the Officers comply, for a Mutiny of Officers is always less dangerous than a Mutiny of private Men—Besides, we do not hear the Palatine Officers refuse to go, tho' they may raise some Difficulties about particular Things, which may soon be adjusted.

But all will be made easie by this Unanimity of the Parliament, in whom is the Spring and Source of all the Motions on that side; and if on their Vote 20000 good season'd Troops be sent this Spring to King Charles in *Catalonia*, I shall not question seeing him again at the Gates of *Madrid*, in Spight of the united Forces of *France* and *Spain*; and this is the Way to make Her Majesty's Words good in Her Speech to the Parliament, viz.

'As the *French* have gain'd Ground upon 'Us in *Spain*, so they have been wholly driven out of *Italy*, by which it is become more 'easie for all the Allies to join their Assistance next Year, for Enabling the King of *Spain* to recover his Affairs in that Kingdom, and to reduce the whole *Spanish* Monarchy to his Obedience.

Fourthly, Nor does the Influence of this Parliamentary Resolution end here; the dull, ill-concerted, disunited, unresolv'd, heavy *Arist* Christians of *Germany*, shall receive new Vigour from this Vote, and Parliamentary Unanimity shall inspire them with proportioned Unanimity, that they never knew before; they that never knew what it was to act like Men, like Men in Danger, like Men environ'd with Enemies, but with a supine unaccountable Negligence suffer'd themselves to fall into the Hands of the *French*, without using the common Application of Men of Sense, will now be taught what it is to be vigorous and unanimous, will be shewn the Advantage of swift Councils, just Resolutions, steady Conduct, and a united Power.

If they have been under weak Management, under unhappy Councils, and wrong Measures, of which they have found the Inconvenience, they will be encouraged to double their Efforts, and open their Eyes,

pull their Hands out of their Bosoms, and restore their own Figure in the World, lately made despicable by the supine Negligence of their Instruments, and the miserable divided Circumstances of their Constitution.

Whether shall we next turn us? The discourag'd Merchants, the complaining Seamen, the insulted Plantations, the decaying Trade, shall all receive new Life from this new Resolution of the House of Commons, and the Miscarriages of our last Summer may perhaps, when examin'd into, shew, that they are not irretrievable; Trade in this Country has been a Chequer-work'd Table, moving always in differing Views to Mankind; to Day thriving, to Morrow decaying; Losses here, and Gain there; and who, that surveys the Losses, which fell upon our Trade the first Years of the late War in King William's Time, could have thought, Trade should have survived them, and that we should have any such thing as Commerce left, or a Merchant standing, Stock to trade with, or Ships to employ.

And yet we are trading still, we are sailing to all Parts of the World still, and venturing cheerfully to Sea upon all Occasions, and Advance of Markets abroad has been a Kind of Tax upon *Europe* to supply our Losses—When we have Loss, our outward-bound Cargoes have levied that Loss upon the Countries they were bound to, by selling the Goods which were there before, or the Cargoes which follow'd, dearer in Proportion; our Imports have upon their Arrival frequently paid for what miscarry'd; when our Ships have been lost, the Rising of Freight has made it good to the Owners, and the Rising of Goods made it good to the Merchant; so that every Loss at Sea has not prov'd a Sinking the Stock of the Nation, and as I have often made it appear, we were at the latter End of the last War in a Condition of growing rich by the War.

But even these Discouragements we have so much por'd upon in the present Case, tho' they are alleviated in the Course of Commerce, they yet receive a greater Relief from the conjunct Influence of the Parliament, the) It Concerns the Houses shew, for the Losses the Merchants suffer, the just

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